

RRR000603



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EIS Office, US Dept of Energy  
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Mgmt  
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**Comments of the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility on the draft  
Repository Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and draft  
Nevada Rail Corridor/Alignment Environmental Impact Statement**

Dear Ms. Summerson and Mr. Bishop,

The Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility (A4NR) is a California 501 (c) (3) nonprofit corporation, founded in 2005 to address issues of nuclear power including the costs of waste storage, removal and transportation resulting from the operation of the state's reactors.

1 [A4NR attended the November 29, 2007 Department of Energy (DOE) hearing in the remote area of Lone Pine and presented a list of questions for which we have yet to receive any responses from the DOE. We therefore begin our comments by requesting a 60 day extension on the comment period until these questions of great relevance to our state have been answered (attachment A). In addition, according to the Las Vegas Review Journal dated 1/08/08, the Yucca project is underfunded and stalled and therefore a rush to force comments cannot be seen as in the public interest.]

The state has patiently waited since the passage of the 1982 Nuclear Waste Policy Act for a safe, cost-effective, and secure method of transport and storage. Fortunately, California took protective measures to ensure that a permanent repository would be safely operating and be available for additional storage before allowing new nuclear plants to be sited in our state.

2 [A4NR fully supports the comments filed by H-O-M-E, Beyond Nuclear, The Nevada Nuclear Waste Task Force and the state of Nevada. We are concerned that absent complete plans the DOE would attempt to approve transport routes

that could likely be unavailable, absent adequate infrastructure, questionably secure and extremely costly for all states involved.

H-O-M-E-s has expressed valid concerns regarding the following inadequacies must be resolved if the public is to have any confidence in the DOE's transport plan for tens-of thousands of tons of highly radioactive waste. Therefore, A4NR fully supports the resolution of these issues before approving any EIS for rail corridors or any other transport corridors for the shipment of highly radioactive material. A4NR reiterates H-O-M-E's concerns in our comments.

Inadequate analysis of effects of groundwater pumping on groundwater migration  
Inadequate analysis of socio-economic impacts  
Inadequate analysis of impacts to the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe  
Inadequate analysis of Land Ownership issues  
Transportation, Aging, and Disposal (TAD) Canisters  
Inadequate analysis of proposed repository capacity  
Inadequate analysis of MRS-type storage for newer hotter irradiated nuclear fuel  
Inadequate analysis of potential hazards from military overflights and airspace jurisdiction  
Inadequate analysis of baseline soil and water data for future comparison ]

**Draft Rail Corridor/Alignment Supplemental Environmental Impact Statements**

- 3 [ Inadequate analysis of reasonable alternatives to the Callente Rail Corridor  
Potential truck transportation of nuclear materials on California Highways 127 and 178  
Inadequate analysis of California impacts from the movement of construction equipment  
Inadequate analysis of severe accidents and acts of terrorism  
No final federal Environmental Protection Agency compliance standard  
NEPA Procedural Concerns regarding availability of hearings and SEIS documents ]

Continued 1 [ Due to these and the unanswered questions of the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility, A4NR restates its request for an extension for filing comments until the DOE has provided full responses and addressed all inadequacies.

Sincerely,

Rochelle Becker, Executive Director  
Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility

(858) 337-2703

## ATTACHMENT A

**ALLIANCE  
FOR NUCLEAR  
RESPONSIBILITY**

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Nov 29, 2007

DOE PUBLIC HEARING, LONE PINE CALIFORNIA, NOVEMBER 29, 2007

QUESTIONS FOR DOE RE: YUCCA MOUNTAIN SEIS  
SUBMITTED BY ALLIANCE FOR NUCLEAR RESPONSIBILITY:

**PREFACE**

The Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility is a statewide organization acting under the premise that the state of California has jurisdictional rights over the "cost and reliability of electrical generation." What we pay for electricity is a concern to citizens and ratepayers, and we have a right to know those costs. As authorized by the California Legislature, AB 1632 (Blakeslee-R-San Luis Obispo) requires the California Energy Commission to conduct a complete, cradle-to-grave full cost/benefit/risk analysis of nuclear power in determining whether it is in the state's fiscal interest to continue generation electricity by nuclear means. Clearly, these costs must include those involving the high level radioactive waste produced by nuclear fission. To help us ascertain these costs, we ask the following question:

4 1). [IS ANY RADIOACTIVE WASTE (CIVILIAN OR OTHERWISE) THAT DID NOT ORIGINATE IN CALIFORNIA GOING TO PASS THROUGH OUR STATE TO GET TO YUCCA MOUNTAIN?? WHAT PERCENTAGE AND HOW MUCH BY VOLUME?

2) IF "NO," WHY DOES THE MAP SHOW THESE ROUTES AND WHAT ARE THEY THERE FOR? IF "NO," WHY IS NOT A CORRECTED MAP PART OF THE EIS AND WHY WAS THIS REVISION NOT NOTICED OR ISSUED PRIOR TO THIS MEETING?

ARE YOU STATING, ON THE RECORD TONIGHT, THAT ONLY WASTE WHICH HAS ORIGINATED IN CALIFORNIA WILL BE TRANSPORTED BY RAIL OR ANY OTHER VEHICLE THROUGH CALIFORNIA?

3) IF "YES," THEN THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS APPLY:

- A) HAS DOE NOTIFIED FIRST RESPONDERS IN EACH COUNTY OR MUNICIPALITY THROUGH WHICH THIS WASTE WILL PASS THAT THEY ARE GOING TO HAVE THIS WASTE PASSING THROUGH THEIR AREAS? IF SO, WHO DID YOU SPECIFICALLY NOTIFY AND WHEN DID YOU NOTIFY THEM? HAVE YOU RECEIVED COMMENTS FROM ANY OF THESE CONCERNED PARTIES?
- B) IF YOU DID NOT NOTIFY THEM, WHY NOT? IS THE CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR AWARE OF THESE TRANSPORT ROUTES AND WHICH OTHER STATE AGENCIES AND LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES HAVE YOU BEEN WORKING WITH?

5 4) [A4NR IS CERTAIN THAT THE DOE IS AWARE THAT SINCE 2004 THERE HAVE BEEN AT LEAST ONE REPORTED RADIOACTIVE WASTE TRANSPORT ACCIDENTS PER YEAR

2004—OAK RIDGE STATE HIWAY 95 5/19/04  
2005—BUFFALO, NEW YORK 10/28/05  
2006—SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA 2/27/06  
2007—SHEARON HARRIS 10/26/07

AND WE HAVE YET TO BEGIN TO SHIP THE ACTUAL VAST QUANTITIES OF SPENT FUEL. IF THIS HAPPENS ONCE OR TWICE A YEAR NOW, WHAT ASSURANCES DOES THE PUBLIC HAVE THAT 70,000 TONS OF HIGH LEVEL WASTE CAN BE SHPPED SAFELY THROUGH OUR STATES?

5) IF YOU USED COMPUTER MODELING TO PREDICT FUTURE ACCIDENTS, DID YOUR COMPUTER PREDICT THESE SINCE 2004?

6 6) [WHAT IS DOE PROPOSING TO DO TO REPAIR THE DILAPIDATED STATE OF OUR EXISTING US RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE?

HAS DOE BUDGETED FOR THE TRAINING AND EQUIPING OF FIRST RESPONDERS IN COMMUNITIES ALONG THE ROUTES OF THE WASTE IN THE EVENT OF A RADIOLOGICAL RELEASE? WHO WILL BE PAYING FOR THIS TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT AND WHAT WILL IT COST?

7) IF THE CASKS WEIGH 27 TONS AND THE TRUCK AND TRAILER ADD 13 TONS AND THIS EXCEEDS THE 80,000 POUND LIMIT ON OUR

**HIGHWAYS...HAS THE DOE CONSIDERED THIS LIMITATION ON THE  
ROADS BOTH IN CALIFORNIA AND THE USA?**

**8) DO YOU INTEND TO USE HIGHWAY 127 NORTH FROM BAKER TO  
NEVADA? HAS THIS ROAD BEEN EVALUATED FOR SUCH POTENTIAL  
HEAVY USAGE?**

**9) WHY SHOULD THE WORLD'S SEVENTH LARGEST ECONOMY  
ACCEPT THESE TRANSPORT RISKS? WHAT GUARANTEES WILL THE DOE  
MAKE (FOR THAT MATTER, WHAT GUARANTEES HAS THE DOE EVER  
LIVED UP TO—I.E., ROCKY FLATS, HANFORD, SAVANNAH RIVER, ETC.)?** ]

RRR000175



webserver@yucca-web.ymp.gov on 12/04/2007 01:00:22 AM

To: EIS\_Comments@ymp.gov  
cc:  
Subject: EIS Comment

User Filed as: Not Categorized in ERMS

December 04, 2007 01:00:22

IP address: 4.182.99.36

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The Commentors Name:

----> Ms. Charlotte Omohundro

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The Commentors Address:

----> P.O.Box 370292

----> Las Vegas, Nevada 89128

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Email Information:

---->

----> Add commentor to the mailing list : no

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Contact Information:

----> fax number :

----> phone number :

----> organization :

----> position :

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Comment Text :

--> (Please delete my address from the public record.)

1 [Disasterously inappropriate siting for the proposed railway delivery of "high level toxicity" (lethal) radioactive waste to the proposed storage facility at Yucca Mountain will doom the project to failure and will doom the taxpaying American citizens downwind and downstream when unavoidable spillage accidents occur.]

2 [It seems that once again, pertinent geological data has been ommitted from the propaganda and maps supplied by the DOE in the information packets distributed to the public under the title "Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement...for a Rail Alignment...Yucca Mtn...Oct. 2007 EIS-0369D.

A check of 'recent earthquake' maps on the USGS.gov website shows that out of the 389 earthquakes that occurred in the Nevada/California region in the last week, 28 were in close proximity to the southern NV/CA border where the proposed railway is to be built. That's 28 earthquakes in one week. Multiply that by 52 weeks in a year and the result is 1,456 earthquakes. In ten years that would be approximately 14,560 earthquakes. These statistics are skewed because the immense area where the military reservation exists is curiously blank. It is unlikely that no earthquakes happened or that no faultlines exist in that area: the occurences simply have been withheld from the public.

It's well documented that slippage is more likely to occur along previously

established earthquake fault lines and the proposed railroad would cross known earthquake faults in approximately 10 to 12 places. (Of course there are unknown and unmapped earthquake faults as well.) So, what's the real likelihood of a spillage accident occurring? And what happens when a container of "high level toxicity" (lethal) waste enroute to Yucca Mtn. spills?

3

That depends on what is in the container. There are over 100 radioactive elements produced in a nuclear reactor. Generally speaking, radiation exposure produces skin cancer, eye cataracts and cancers of the lymph nodes, spleen and bone marrow (leukemia). It can cause brain damage, blindness, paraplegia, epilepsy and other nervous system damage.

Iodine 131 causes thyroid cancer. Strontium 90 causes bone cancer. Radon produces lung cancer. The worst, however, is Plutonium 239, with a half-life of over 24,000 years. It causes genetic damage, including physical deformities and mental retardation. That genetic damage is repeated in subsequent generations WITHOUT additional exposures.

To my knowledge there is no workable large scale plan for evacuation and/or treatment of exposed victims when spillage occurs. Anyone who lives in Las Vegas knows how woefully inadequate are the number of medical practitioners and facilities under normal conditions. And what happens when those medical caregivers are themselves victims of exposure? Does the Federal government expect us to believe that they can airlift enough medical personnel to treat potentially a million and a half victims of exposure? That's the current population in southern Nevada. What will it be in another 5 years? Or 10 or 20 years, if the current growth rates continue?

The Utah Downwinders were assured repeatedly that the levels of radiation to which they were exposed never exceeded safe levels during the 1950's and 1960's when atomic testing took place at the Nevada Test Site. What assurances do we have that we would be informed truthfully of exposures caused by spillage events during transportation of waste upwind of Yucca Mtn. and Las Vegas? Or the effects of the exposure?

For the last fifty years the Departments of Energy and Defense have fought the Nevada Test Site Workers and the Utah Downwind Victims of radioactive exposure in the courts when they have been sued for reimbursement of medical and funeral expenses and for compensation for lost homes, businesses, farms and ranches. Apparently those unfortunate people were regarded as an acceptable level of 'collateral damage' in the Cold War era during which the testing took place at the Nevada Test Site.]

( Continued [As with the rest of the Sunbelt states, the population here in southern Nevada has grown beyond all expectation and is expected to continue to grow. It can no longer be written off as a small bunch of Indians and religious fanatics (those were unenlightened times when racial and religious discrimination were easily discounted and denied). Subjecting well over a million Southwestern citizens to the certain threat of radioactive contamination isn't acceptable because people on the eastern seaboard now want to heat their outdoor hot tubs in the wintertime with electricity produced from nuclear power. There's nothing safe about the oxymoronic "safe science" approach to radioactive waste railway transportation and storage in the area of the highest seismic activity in the continental United States. Not now and not for the next 24,000 years.]

Charlotte Omohundro 12/04/07